



News and Events in the 5th Grade
October 24, 2011
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Important Dates

Week of Oct. 24	Red Ribbon Week
Oct. 26	Picture Retakes
Oct. 27	Pollution Unit Test
Oct. 28	Unit 4 Math Test
Nov 10	Literature Circle Final Assessment
Nov 11	No School

Dear Families,

Holmes School is celebrating Red Ribbon Week this week. This nationwide campaign encourages individuals to build character so that they engage in a drug-free lifestyle. This year's theme is "I Am Drug Free." Our school's focus is to promote the importance of building character as a means to strengthen students' confidence to make good decisions and stay healthy. Red Ribbon Week activities are as follows: Monday - Wear Crazy Socks; Tuesday - Wear Boots Day; Wednesday - Wear Clothing Inside Out Day; Thursday - Grade Level Theme (TBA); Friday - Wear Red.

Our bowling field trip is next Monday, October 31. We will be leaving the school at 11:15 and will be returning at approximately 2:15. The cost of the field trip is \$13. Permission slips and the field trip fee are due by this Thursday. Please pay in cash as we must divide the funds between the bowling alley and the bus company. Students must bring a sack lunch for this trip. We will be eating at the alley, and no food is available there.

In conjunction with the October 31 fall celebration activities, we will be conducting a fall food drive this week. Please bring in nonperishable items such as canned goods, beans or pasta.

Specials

Art - The Art Room blog is back! Please check out www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com Here you can see what your student is learning about in Art, and see our artwork as well.

Music - We did our mid trimester assessments last week, including a recorder assessment. If your child did not have their recorder they did not receive credit. They will need to bring in their recorder this week to make up the assessment during part of their recess. We will be continue working on the folk song "Skin and Bones" this week. The orchestration will have recorders, singing, and Orff (barred instruments, i.e. xylophones) instruments.

Spanish - Students started their new story, *El Muchacho Pastor*. They can read the story to someone for 10 extra puntos. You can find it at: www.mpoleski.blogspot.com

Library - Information can be found on the Holmes Library page on our school website, <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.



Reading/Literature

Students took the Treasures Unit 1 Assessment last week. These will be returned to your student by Wednesday. Please be sure to look it over with your child, sign it and return it to school by next Monday, Oct. 31st.

This week we begin literature circles for The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis. Students have each been assigned a role that they must complete by the assigned due date so that they can participate in discussion with their group. These assigned roles can be found in their Literature Circle Packets. Important due dates are as follows:

Discussion 1/Quiz 1 - Chapters 1-4 - Tues, October 25th
 Discussion 2/Quiz 2 - Chapters 5-8 - Fri, October 28th
 Discussion 3/Quiz 3 - Chapters 9-12 - Wed, Nov 2nd
 Discussion 4/Quiz 4 - Chapters 13-15 - Mon, Nov 7th
 Group Project Due November 9th
 Final Literature Circle Assessment - Thursday, Nov. 10th

Language Arts/Writing

Writing Assignment: This week students will work on completing a draft of their persuasive essay. Their rough drafts will be due on Thursday, October 27th. Students will have time on Thursday to do some peer editing, and revision to their rough drafts. We will begin typing our final drafts on Friday.

Grammar Focus: Common and Proper Nouns - distinguish the difference between the two and understand capitalization rules

Math

Today we continued to work on partial quotients division and long division. Tomorrow, we will work on interpreting the remainder in a division problem. We will look at different situations and decide whether the remainder should be ignored, rounded up, or reported as a fraction or decimal. That will bring us to the end of Unit 4. The unit test will be on Friday and we will review for the test in class on Thursday. Students will have a review sheet covering the skills on the unit test.

Science

Today we tested various samples of water to determine which was hard or soft. Students learned that more detergent is needed when using hard water, which increases the amount of water pollution. This was our last activity for the pollution unit, and we will have a unit test on Thursday. We will review in class tomorrow. Students will be able to use all their notes (review sheets, quizzes, vocabulary squares) on the unit test. We still need pizza boxes for an upcoming activity. If you have a relatively clean pizza box, please send it to school with your child.

Social Studies

Last week, students learned about Cortes and the conquistadors who conquered the Aztecs. Following our study of New Spain, students will learn about early settlements in North America. Also this week, students will receive a graphic organizer to help them plan their research papers. We will have time in class on Tuesday and Thursday to research topics using the netbooks. We will work on this paper in class over the next few weeks as students complete their research and a rough draft. Some students may need extra time at home for this project. We are excited that Mr. Kristofer will work with students on a clay project related to their historical figure.

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Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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